



West Valley City **POLICE**

Office of Chief Lee W. Russo

3575 South Market Street, West Valley City, Utah, 84119

Nationwide Groupon Campaign raises over \$335,000 for law enforcement K9 protective vests

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 30, 2014

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The West Valley City Police Department's K9s Copper, Taz, Lobo, Halo, Sam, and Chief will be receiving a ballistic vests thanks to a nationwide GROUPON EVENT that has raised over \$335,000.00.

The "Occasions" campaign for Groupon Grassroots to outfit police K9's with bullet and stab protective vests ran February 15th through March 5th at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. was the nationwide non-profit organization and charity partner selected by Groupon Grassroots to participate. The online \$10 donation suggested interested persons purchase a GROUPON (a tax deductible donation) through the secure website where all funds were allocated to purchase ballistic vests for our four-legged crime fighters who put their lives on the line for the community and their partner.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. will be providing over 350 law enforcement dogs nationwide with the protective body armor in memory of K9 Rocco of the Pittsburgh Police Department who sacrificed his life in the line of duty in January of 2014.

All vests will be embroidered with the sentiment, "In Memory of K9 Rocco, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police".

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc a 501c (3) organization is still accepting donations through their website: www.vik9s.org and via mail P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

In 2013, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. partnered with Groupon and was named as one of “The Best of 2013” campaigns. The non-profit raised \$155,537.33 in just one week, which provided ballistic vests for 163 law enforcement dogs in 30 states. There are an estimated 30,000 police dogs throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. announces their 2015 color calendar now on sale for \$15.00 online at www.vik9s.org. Proceeds from the sales will provide bullet and stab protective vests for police dogs actively working without the potentially lifesaving equipment.

ABOUT VESTED INTEREST IN K9S, INC.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA. Whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. Each vest costs \$950.00 and has a 5 year warranty. The nonprofit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially life-saving body armor for their four legged K9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 1100 law enforcement dogs in 39 states with protective vests since 2009.

The organization orders the U.S. made vests exclusively from distributor Regency Police Supply in Hyannis, MA. Who also does the custom embroidery on the body armor.

New K9 graduates as well as K9's with expired vests are eligible to participate. The program is open to law enforcement dogs who are US employed, certified and at least 19 months of age.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call [508-824-6978](tel:508-824-6978). Tax deductible donations and event listings are via the website: www.vik9s.org.



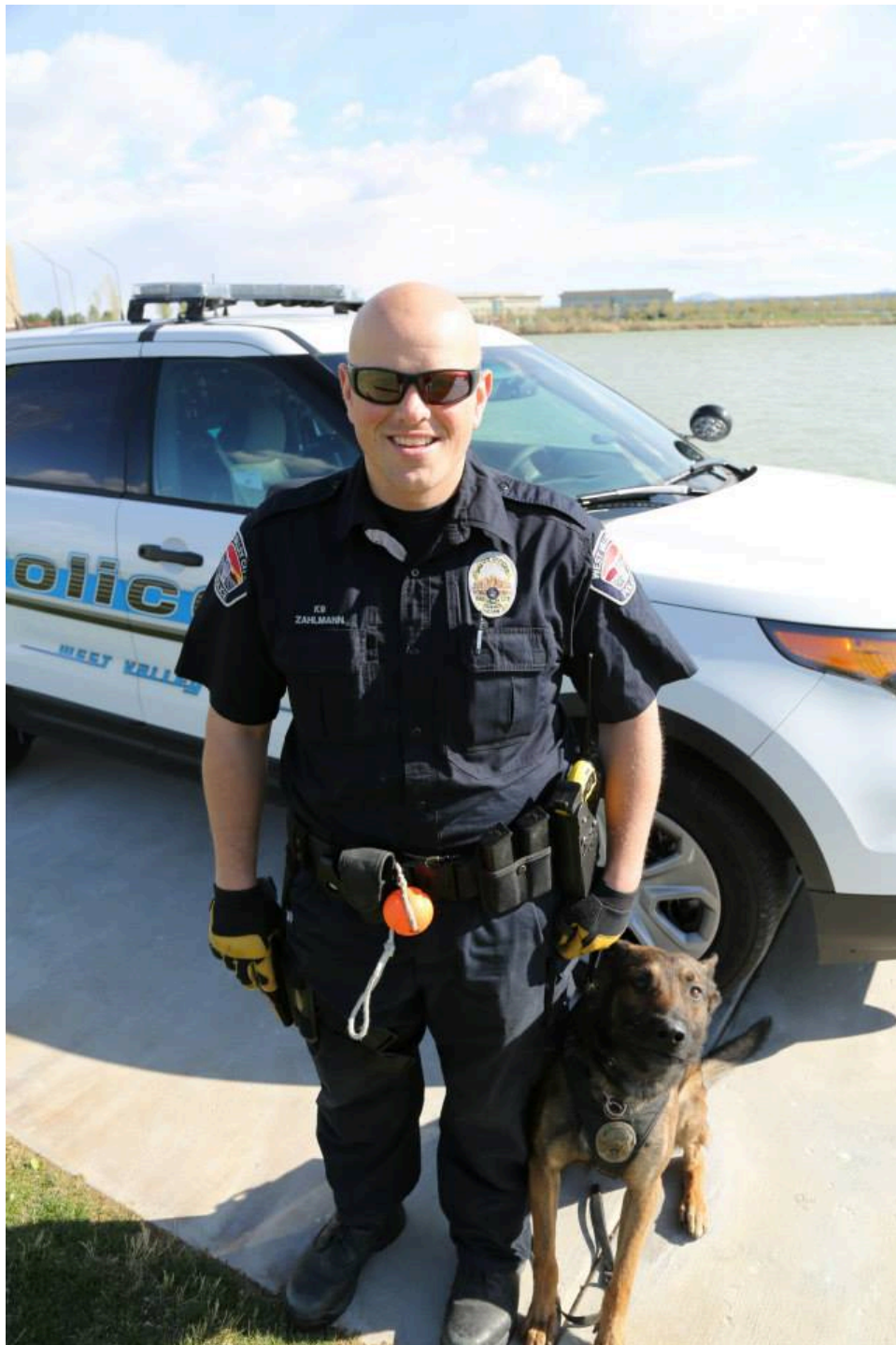
Officer Steven Beardshall with Chief. Chief is a bloodhound. Chief is trained to look for missing people and can also search for suspects in any type of crime.



Officer Darin Hoover with Taz. Taz is trained to find suspects and help catch them



Officer Jake Palmer and Halo. Halo is trained to search for suspects and help catch them.



Officer Todd Zahlmann with Lobo. Lobo is trained to search out suspects and help catch them.



Sgt. Shane Matheson with Copper. Copper is a bloodhound. He is trained to look for missing people and can also search for suspects in any type of crime.



Officer Kelley Dellinger with Sam. Sam is trained to help find suspects and catch them.